Enquiries have revealed that the ship had crew of 16 members which included Somalians - 6, Syrians - 4, and Lebanese - 4 besides 4 Indians. It developed some snag in mid-sea during its journey from Somalia to Dubai and remained floating in mid-sea. On receiving an SOS from the ship, US ship 'Vicks Burg' came to their rescue and airlifted on 16th June, 2002 all the crew members to another vessel 'MV Stolet Spray' which was sailing towards Kandla Port. Finally, the latter ship berthed in Kandla on June 18/19, 2002 and thereafter all the foreign crew members left for their respective countries via mumbai after completion of immigration formalities through local Shipping Agent at Kandla. All the four Indian crew members on board the vessel Al Murtada have been identified.

The ship was not in the Maritime Zone of India when the incident occurred. But drifted into Indian waters after the crew was rescued by the US Naval ship and abandoned the vessel.

There has been no security lapse. The surveillance and patrolling off the West coast is jointly done by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard. Besides, Indian Coast Guard has institutionalised a system wherein merchant ships transiting through the Indian maritime zones are encouraged to pass information in case any suspicious vessel is sighted.

Compensation of land owners in J&K

2244. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Land compensation and rent paid by Army and para-military forces to the Land owners in J&K since 1995, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rent paid is inadequate and there are delays in making such payments;

(c) if so, when the rent was last assessed for enhancement;

(d) what steps are being taken for speedy payment to the land owners; and

(e) how many compensation cases are pending and why?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The details of land compensation and rent paid by Army to the

landowners in J&K since 1995 are given in Statement. (*See* below). The rentals in respect of requisitioned lands in J&K State are revised by the Government of J&K after every five years. The last revision of rentals was done by the Government of J&K under their Notification No. 443 dated 1.10.1999, with effect from 16.2.1998. The rentals for the requisitioned and hired lands are normally being paid regularly. However, in some cases, the rentals at the revised rates have not been released pending verification of lands jointly by the Army and State Revenue Authorities. Necessary directions have been issued to expedite such cases. Forty four (44) Land Acquisition cases for Defence purposes are under process at various stages.

2. Regarding the payment of rentals for the lands under occupation of Para-Military Forces, Ministry of Home Affairs have informed that accommodation/land has been provided to Central Para-Military Forces by the State Government of J&K. In cases where the rent is being paid, it is as per the assessment by the Local Revenue Authorities, which involves revision of rates also. They have also informed that proposals for acquisition of 577.83 acres of land for Para-Military Forces in J&K are under process.

Statement

The details of land compensation and rent paid by Army to the landowners in J&K since 1995

Year	The amount of land compensation and rent paid (in Rupees)
1995-1996	07,25,75,827/-
1996-1997	12,64,84,885/-
1997-1998	18,66,50,742/-
1998-1999	17,85,36,352/-
1999-2000	25,58,11,194/-
2000-2001	22,12,32,073/-
2001-2002	16,56,45,019/-
TOTAL:	1,20,69,36,092/-